

## GERMANY'S OLD STATESMAN.

BISMARCK GIVES HIS VIEWS ON MANY MATTERS OF INTEREST.

The Relief He Feels in His Freedom from Public Care—Germany's Army Guards the Peace—The Battle Squadron Begins the Spring Manoeuvres—Art to Berlin.

BERLIN, May 6.—Prince Bismarck's speech to the Holstein veterans on Thursday was more closely related to current politics than any utterance he has made since his fall. It also indicated that he has consented to act officially in harmony with the Government in affairs where both can stand on common ground. Thus, while remaining as far as ever from the Chancellor, he has exerted his mighty influence as most Germans have desired him to exert it ever since his retirement to the Saxon town. This significance of the Prince's speech was first appreciated on Friday evening when the newspapers spread the report that the imperial policy in Schleswig-Holstein was about to be modified materially.

The societies of Danish war veterans whom the Prince addressed, are absolutely without political influence, but his remarks on their personal association with events that led to the unification of the empire, pointed to the existence of a clear understanding in the matter between him and the Emperor. The subject of the understanding is a plan to abolish almost all forms of distinguishing citizens of the conquered duchies from those Prussians. While the assimilation of Schleswig-Holstein has never presented the difficulties experienced in Alance-Lorraine, the fact that the Government has found it completely accomplished in less than thirty years is considered a happy augury for the future of the Reichland. The policy of the Government henceforth will be to let fall silently and without formal edit all the methods of coercion once so familiar to the Schleswigers. Hitherto the Schleswig-Holstein officials have had many discretionary powers. Although instructed to use these powers with the utmost consideration, they have often been arbitrary and despotic, and have used various pretexts to expel citizens.

Recently the Danish pastors of the duchies appealed to Dr. Bosse, Minister of Public Works, to grant them liberty to address their flocks on religious matters in Danish twice a week. This appeal was refused, although presented personally by German pastors from adjoining districts. Public meetings of Schleswigers have been allowed only under permits obtained from local Prussian officials, and these permits have been granted very sparingly, even in cases where the request was well founded. The intervention extended even to literary, artistic, and educational organizations. In fact, corruption has been carried administratively to the far greatest extent in the duchies, and in the opinion of the people it has had deplorable results here as due only to the patience and phlegm of the people. The conviction in official circles is that the best way to bring about a change is regular administrative laws which will leave little or no discretion to officials. The reform in Schleswig-Holstein is expected also to bring about changes in the treatment of Alsace-Lorraine.

On Thursday Prince Bismarck approached the Emperor in his study at the Palace and causally on the many spots to which the unfriendly press had subjected him, and his son energetically at the opponents who were then in power. The Emperor said: "Topakyan for cash, a small lot to the latter's brother, G. H. Topakyan and the rest to a man named Agopson for about \$4,000." It is asserted that at this time the two brothers were in Paris. G. H. Topakyan and Agopson's right to use the title "Persian Commissioner" or "Persian Ex-homme of the Empire," which of course gives them no right to do, as his credentials were not given to him personally by the Shah, and could not be transferred for a consideration or by inheritance. The Emperor said: "Topakyan and the other brothers doubted good prudence to Coroyantz for his rugs in order to secure the use of the Commission title, and the city are authority for the statement that Topakyan not only has no right to add the word 'Commissioner' to his name, but that he deserved any good name. For he has done nothing in sight to warrant a change of the appointment provided in the original bill did not give home rights." Major Lentz promised to have new bills drawn making the titles of the heads of Public Works and Freeholders elective.

Speaker Holt, it is believed, has given up his hope of securing the Persian Commissionership and may seek a place in the State Department. The information extended even to literary, artistic, and educational organizations. In fact, corruption has been carried administratively to the far greatest extent in the duchies, and in the opinion of the people it has had deplorable results here as due only to the patience and phlegm of the people. The conviction in official circles is that the best way to bring about a change is regular administrative laws which will leave little or no discretion to officials.

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In speaking of the relief he had felt upon quitting his office, Bismarck referred to his return to Germany as the end of his life, which at the close of his career, had said: "I am glad to get out of the gallery."

Once I was an actor on the stage; now I am a spectator in the gallery."

The Holstein question Bismarck said: "I am glad that the difference of opinion which existed thirty years ago concerning the future of the duchies has disappeared."

The situation is now permeated with the knowledge that the Government aims at what is best for all.

After discussing Schleswig-Holstein affairs in some detail, the Prince said of Germany's military establishment: "All realize to-day that the great mistake of the past lies upon entering the army undoubtedly resigns part of his liberty, but he obtains in exchange a position of influence and power."

When I served with the Guard I learned how comfortable was this feeling. As a soldier he gained influence at the opponents who were then in power. The Emperor said:

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The two divisions of the Baltic squadron left Kiel yesterday for their spring manœuvres. The first division consisted of the war ships Baden, Bayern, Württemberg, and Sachsen, accompanied by the ironclad boat, and under orders to operate between Norway and the Shetland Islands. The second division consists of the König Wilhelm, Deutschland, Westfalen, and Sachsen, and is to operate in a southern Norwegian port. On May 25 both divisions will be united under Prince Holstein, who from Kiel will proceed to Copenhagen for the remaining evolutions. Prince Holstein will entertain Archduke Stephen of Austria aboard the flagship during the manœuvres.

The naval fleet edition of the "Neue Aestellung" Panzerkrieg was opened on Thursday. Neither Emperor, Prince, nor other grandees were present. Dr. Bosse, Minister of Public Works, was the only one in his court clothes, and did the customary honors for the Government. The exhibition is well above the average. While it contains no new features, when great interest is shown by the exclusion of the fascists, who were handled by the committee without gloves. The exhibition is intended to impress the unrepresented. The marine painter Sulmann, who stands high at court, has exhibited a picture which shows the Emperor and his wife in a boat, water sports being the chief attraction.

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